

STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

PETITION OF SOUTHERN INDIANA GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a VECTREN ENERGY DELIVERY OF FILED INDIANA, INC. ("VECTREN SOUTH-GAS") FOR (1) AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES AND CHARGES FOR GAS UTILITY SERVICE; (2) APPROVAL OF NEW NOV 2 8 2006 SCHEDULES OF RATES AND CHARGES APPLICABLE THERETO; (3) AUTHORITY, TO THE **EXTENT** INDIANA UTILITY NECESSARY AS AN ALTERNATIVE REGULATORY PLAN, REGULATORY COMMISSION TO RECOVER ITS UNACCOUNTED FOR GAS COSTS AND THE GAS COST COMPONENT OF ITS BAD DEBT EXPENSE IN ITS GAS COST ADJUSTMENT FILINGS; (4) APPROVAL OF A DISTRIBUTION REPLACEMENT ADJUSTMENT TO RECOVER THE COSTS OF A PROGRAM FOR THE ACCELERATED REPLACEMENT OF CAST IRON MAINS AND BARE STEEL MAINS AND SERVICE LINES; (5) **CAUSE NO. 43112** APPROVAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SALES RECONCILIATION COMPONENT OF THE EFFICIENCY RIDER PROPOSED IN CAUSE NOS. 42943 AND 43046 OR OTHER RATE DESIGN CHANGES THAT UNLINK ITS FIXED COST RECOVERY FROM ITS SALES **VOLUME:** (6) APPROVAL AS $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{N}$ **ALTERNATIVE** REGULATORY PLAN PURSUANT TO IND. CODE § 8-1-2.5-6 OF A RETURN ON EQUITY TEST TO BE USED IN LIEU OF THE STATUTORY NET OPERATING INCOME TEST IN ITS GAS COST ADJUSTMENT PROCEEDINGS; (7) AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO 170 IAC 5-1-27(F) FOR A NON-GAS COST REVENUE TEST TO DETERMINE WHEN DEPOSITS ARE REQUIRED FOR FACILITIES EXTENSIONS; AND (8) APPROVAL OF VARIOUS CHANGES TO ITS TARIFF FOR GAS SERVICE, INCLUDING INCREASES IN CERTAIN NON-RECURRING CHARGES.

<u>PETITIONER'S SUBMISSION OF CUSTOMER NOTICE</u> <u>AS LATE-FILED EXHIBIT</u>

Petitioner Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company d/b/a Vectren Energy Delivery of Indiana, Inc. submits herewith as <u>Petitioner's Exhibit SEA-13</u> a copy of the customer notice provided by Petitioner pursuant to the Commission's Rules, 170 IAC 5-1-18. The notice was not available at the time Petitioner's Case-in-Chief was filed.

Respectfully submitted,

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VECTREN CORPORATION

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Attorneys for Petitioner

Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company d/b/a Vectren Energy Delivery of Indiana,

Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Petitioner's Submission Of Customer notice as Late-Filed Exhibit was served by depositing a copy thereof in the United States mail, first class postage prepaid, addressed to:

OFFICE OF THE UTILITY CONSUMER COUNSELOR 100 North Senate Avenue Room N501 Indiana Government Center North Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Timothy L. Stewart Jennifer W. Terry LEWIS & KAPPES, P.C. One American Square Suite 2500 Indianapolis, IN 46282

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this 28th day of November, 2006.

J. Christopher Janak Christopher C. Earle L. Parvin Price Nikki G. Shoultz BOSE MCKINNEY & EVANS 2700 First Indiana Plaza 135 North Pennsylvania Street Indianapolis, IN 46204

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Daniel W. McGill



Proposed Changes in Natural Gas Base Rates

Vectren Energy Delivery of Indiana - South (Vectren South) has filed a petition with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) to adjust its rates and charges for its natural gas utility service in southwestern Indiana. Please note: These are the rates Vectren South charges for distributing gas to its customers through use of pipelines and other facilities, which is listed on the bill as "Distribution and Service Charges." This does not include the cost of natural gas, which is listed on the bill as "Gas Cost Charge".

Why does Vectren South need a base rate increase? The last base rate increase was in July 2004. In that case, Vectren requested a \$14.7 million increase. In the midst of higher natural gas prices and the need to minimize customer impact, Vectren received a \$5.7 million increase with approval from the IURC. This modest increase, the first since 1996, resulted in a 5% increase in customer bills. In this 2006 rate adjustment petition, Vectren is requesting \$10.4 million - roughly the difference in the dollar amount of increase not added in 2004.

Since 1996, Vectren has invested more than \$30 million to improve its 3,000-mile gas distribution system in southwestern Indiana. Although the 2004 rate increase was a step toward the recovery of those costs, Vectren must completely recover the costs associated with maintaining safe, reliable service and to account for the significant investment the company has made into the infrastructure of its gas distribution system in the past decade.

Bill Impacts: If the proposal is approved by the IURC, the annual natural gas bill would increase by about 6.6 percent for a typical residential customer using gas for home heating. For example, a customer using 744 therms per year should expect the gas portion of his/her bill to increase on average a little under \$5.50 per month or around \$65 for the entire year. When combined with the electric rate case (also filed on Sept. 1), a residential customer with Vectren gas and electric service would see about a 15% increase in the total utility bill or about \$27 more per month.

The chart featured here compares various monthly usage levels between the present rates and the proposed rates.

Base Rate vs. Gas Costs: There are two parts to the residential gas portion of the bill. 1) the base rates, which include the cost Vectren South incurs to deliver gas to your home (listed as

Vectren Energy Delivery of Indiana - South Effects of Proposed Rate Adjustments - Residential Monthly Usage Present Proposed Percent Increase (therms) Rate Rate Amount Increase \$46.22 \$51.61 11.7% 30 \$5.39 50 \$69.86 \$75.35 \$5.49 7.9% \$109.82 80 \$104.27 \$5.55 5.3% 100 \$127.21 \$132.80 \$5.59 4.4% 150 \$184.56 \$190.25 \$5.69 3.1% 200 \$247.70 \$5.79 2.4% \$241.91 250 \$299.26 \$305.15 \$5.89 2.0%

\$362.60

\$5.99

1.7%

\$356.61

"Distribution and Service Charges" on the bill) and 2) the natural gas commodity, which is the actual cost of the gas used in your home or business (listed as "Gas Cost Charge" on the bill.) The rate case only impacts the Distribution and Service Charges bill component, which is approximately 25 to 30 percent of the bill. Vectren South purchases natural gas on behalf of its customers and then passes that cost onto the customer. Vectren South cannot make a profit from the increase in the cost of natural gas as mandated by the IURC.

300

What to Expect: The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) will review the filing and hold a public hearing before it makes a decision. This review process will likely take several months to a year.